

wrong and not very press worthy to focus on things that go right, but it is a testament to what the Senate can do with the work we did yesterday on this bill.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will now be a period of morning business until the hour of 10 a.m.

FOSTER CARE REFORM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will take a few minutes to comment on some events that occurred over the last couple of days that were not necessarily apparent to a lot of people, either in Washington, DC, or around the country. It has to do with a visit from somebody everybody recognizes, and that is Bruce Willis.

Mr. Willis came to our Nation's Capitol a couple of days ago to spotlight the issue of foster care reform. This is the first time I had the opportunity to speak with him on this particular issue. He is clearly a long-time advocate for children in foster care and has dedicated a huge amount of time to bring attention to the problem of children who are aging out of the system.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Willis for his efforts and to take a moment to underscore the importance of the issue he came to share with us, and that is foster care reform.

Thousands of children are cared for by loving families in our foster care system, and we owe these families a debt of gratitude for opening their lives, their homes, and indeed their hearts to these children. Because of their generosity, many foster children do become adopted and experience that gift of a warm and a loving family.

But too many children—and Mr. Willis made crystal clear based on his experiences and the information he has gathered—end up being bounced from place to place, never having that opportunity to have four walls and what can be called a home, or even really one person they can turn to and call family.

Imagine spending your entire childhood as a virtual orphan: No one to come to your high school graduation, no one to keep your picture in their wallet. Most of us do take for granted having a family, but for many children in America childhood is the time they spend waiting in vain for someone to call mom or dad.

Even worse, some foster children end up in situations where they experience severe mental and physical abuse. Many develop health problems and suffer emotional and even physical neglect.

It is my hope that through our efforts in this legislative body, through the efforts of the National Adoption Center and other groups such as Children in Foster Care, by public awareness campaigns such as National Adoption Day, through PSAs featuring well-

known figures and the participation of people whom everybody recognizes, such as Mr. Willis, America's foster children will get what they need most, and that is a family. I applaud my colleagues for their efforts on behalf of America's foster children.

A few minutes ago, I was listening to LARRY CRAIG. He has been one of the Senate's leading voices on this whole issue of adoption and foster care. In 2001, he cosponsored the Hope For Children Act as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act which we just passed and which has become the law of the land.

Others, such as Senator JIM BUNNING, the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, worked to pass a bill to exclude foster care payments from taxation. Other Senators, including Senators HUTCHISON, LANDRIEU, ROCKEFELLER, and CLINTON, have all worked to improve foster care and adoption issues. America's foster children are helped immeasurably by their efforts.

As we debate the big issues, the bold issues, the issues that make the headlines—the Medicare modernization, the addition of prescription drugs to give seniors health care security, to give them greater choice, to have plans that better meet their needs—as we debate the important issues, such as energy this week and FAA reauthorization and tax credits, we should not forget to protect our most vulnerable citizens. Truly, America's foster children are depending on us to look out for them.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PRESIDENT GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wish our 41st President, George Herbert Walker Bush, a happy birthday. Yesterday he turned a robust 79 years of age.

DAVID BRINKLEY

Mr. FRIST. On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I express our condolences to the family and friends on the passing of news giant and television pioneer David Brinkley. Over the course of his 60 outstanding years in journalism, David Brinkley covered every President from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to President Clinton. He earned nearly every award in journalism, including 10 Emmy Awards and 3 Peabody Awards. In 1992, David Brinkley was bestowed by President George Bush the highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom award.

He died in his home Wednesday night in Houston. We all say Godspeed to a great American.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF R. HEWITT PATE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the hour of 10 a.m. having arrived, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of R. Hewitt Pate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of R. Hewitt Pate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask my fellow Senators to vote for R. Hewitt Pate to be Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice. I rise today to share with my colleagues my views, familiarity and admiration for R. Hewitt Pate.

We all know, and the Presiding Officer recognizes, how important our antitrust laws are and their beneficial influence in making sure we have competition in our free market society. Competition is absolutely essential because it forces us to always be innovative to ensure a good market share for whatever the product or service. Our antitrust laws are vital for free competition in our society and in our economy.

Mr. Pate, as Assistant Attorney General in the Antitrust Division of the Justice Department, will be one of the key leaders, if not the key leader, in making sure that monopolistic or anti-competitive practices do not occur in this country. I can confidently say Mr. Pate is very well qualified to decide antitrust matters effectively. He will lead with impartiality, dignity and fairness in this important position.

When I was Governor of Virginia, I appointed Mr. Pate to the Virginia Commission of Higher Education and the Governor's Commission on Self-Determination and Federalism.

I have known Hew Pate since he was at the University of Virginia. I was a relatively young delegate at the time, representing Mr. Jefferson's seat in Albemarle and Nelson Counties, which surround the University of Virginia. Ever since those years, Hew Pate has constantly amazed me. Even then, as a very young man at the University of Virginia School of Law, he was always very conscientious and knowledgeable, and he has been a very good friend and ally ever since.

Hew Pate graduated first in his class from the University of Virginia Law School in 1987 and went on to clerk for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition, Mr. Pate clerked for both Justice Louis Powell and Justice Anthony